

underlined. This Substitute Specification is being submitted in response to the Examiner's request for applicants to review and revise the specification so that it complies with 35 U.S.C. §112.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.125(b) applicants submit that the Substitute Specification contains only the changes shown in the marked-up copy and does not include any new matter.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- sub D, 17
- B1
1. (Twice Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:
- a liquid-pervious topsheet;
  - a liquid-impervious backsheet;
  - a liquid-absorbent core having a length, width and thickness and being covered with an absorbent and diffusive sheet and disposed between said topsheet and said backsheet;
  - said core being formed on a side facing said topsheet with at least one groove depressed in a direction from a side of said topsheet toward a side of said backsheet, said at least one groove having a bottom and side walls both covered with said topsheet;
  - said core containing water-absorbent fibers and superabsorbent particles; and
  - said superabsorbent polymer particles being disposed in a continuous manner in a single zone within the core between said topsheet and said backsheet which single zone is substantially coextensive with the length and width of the core and along said bottom of said at least one groove

B1  
cont with a higher concentration of the superabsorbent polymer particles within a vicinity of the at least one groove.

B2 sub 97  
4. (Twice Amended) The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein an upper zone of the core above the single zone containing the superabsorbent polymer particles has a higher concentration of said water-absorbent fibers than the single zone containing the superabsorbent polymer particles.

B3  
sub 101  
8-17-03  
8. (Twice Amended) The disposable diaper according to Claim 7, wherein said at least one groove comprises at least two grooves and said crotch region is formed along transversely opposite side edge portions thereof with said at least two grooves, respectively, extending in said longitudinal direction in parallel to each other.

Please add new claim 10 and 11 as follows:

B4 sub 101  
10. (New) The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein the core contains at least 20% by weight of thermoplastic synthetic fibers.

11. (New) The disposable diaper according to Claim 10, wherein the thermoplastic synthetic fibers have a melting point of  $100^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .